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LITTLE MAGAZINES IN AMERICA -- A SYMPOSIUM, Edited by Walter Lowenfels

- a...Leslie Woolf Hedley, poet and editor of Inferno Press
- b...Curtis Zahn, poet, critic, short story writer and associate editor of TRACE
- c...Millen Brand, poet and novelist
- d...Carl Larsen, poet and editor, rongWrong, BRAND X, and 7 Poets Press
- e...Jon Edgar Webb, novelist and editor, THE OUTSIDER
- f...Jack Lindeman, editor, WHETSTONE
- g...Philip Stevenson, novelist
- h...Marvin Malone, editor, WORMWOOD
- i...Gilbert Sorrentino, editor, NEON, KULCHUR
- j...Mike Newberry, critic
- k...Zapata Modesto, writer
- l...William J. Margolis, editor

MARVIN MALONE. EDITOR, WORMWOOD

What is the role of the little mag in the USA? Well, in as few words as possible here is one opinion:

- a) to champion simulaneously integrity and individuality.
- b) to publish the new writers, who for various reasons don't fit into the mass consumption mold, and yet who have the ability to communicate something valid.
- c) to provide and promote some degree of recognition for these new poets; this fills for them a profound need and gives them courage to continue to develop their vision. No matter what anyone says, writers must communicate to remain sane. Words cannot ~~fall~~ into a complete vacuum.
- d) to provide a medium for communication among writers, so that they do not accept the mass psychosis because of sheer loneliness.
- e) to persist in publication even though the format goes from print, to offset, to mimeograph... to persist in spite of the lack of money... to be ingenious....
- f) to publish material, ideas and concepts which the masses are not ready to digest, cannot digest, will not digest, but will slowly accept as the more adventurous "slicks" begin to catch the drift and copy.
- g) to air the taboos. Today some of these are 1) death in an individual sense, 2) the relativity of individuality, 3) the stasis of culture in the USA at the pre World War II level, 4) that teamwork is best for horses, 5) that a breast in hand is worth two in the bra, 6) the lack of really VALID work for a MAN to do in the USA, and 7) etc.
- h) to keep alive the rich American tradition of ironic, intelligent, baiting humor (yes, baiting; not biting).
- i) to discomfit as much as possible the self-assured literary critics; to set up an active dissent against the easy success of X. J. Kennedy, Alan Dugan, et al.
- j) to not be pro-Catholic, pro-Protestant, pro-Jewish, or pro-Zen, but be pro-humanity. But even then to be violently pro-anything is to develop a dull, dull, little mag. The spirit of Dada is perhaps the best attitude for editors.
- k) to be apolitical also. But the border areas are fair game and it is good to harass the "Harvard-type pseudo intellectuals" with the amusing aspects of the Jack Kennedy--Elvis Presley Syndrome, the Marilyn Monroe--Jackie Kennedy Identification, the Daddy Warbucks--Ike Complex, the MAD Mag--Madison Ave. symbiosis, etc.
- l) to prove to the academy poets that it is still possible to write a good love poem that is also a good erotic poem.
- m) to oppose the idea that "black is black, white is white, and that grey is red."
- n) enough, enough... but above all... to be alive and provocative. OK?